Spying case in defence establishments

2345. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that series of spying cases took place in defence establishments last year, exposing the vulnerability of the armed forces to security leaks;

(b) if so, the case-wise details thereof during the year 2006;

(c) whether Defence Research and Development Organization has come out with detailed recommendations on deceit detection and interrogation with regards to spies and insurgents; and

(d) who are the suspects behind these espionage activities and how many of them have been arrested till-date?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Six espionage cases have been reported during the year 2006. It is not in the interest of National Security to disclose further details on these matters.

(c) A manual titled as "Deceit detection and interrogation" has been developed by DRDO to help the security forces in such endeavours.

(d) It is not in the interest of National Security to disclose details on these matters.

Agreement with Russia for procurement of defence hardware

2346. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have entered into agreements with the Government or Corporations of Russia for procurement of defence hardware, particularly fighter warplanes and renovate/retrofitted aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov;

(b) if so, salient details of the agreements pertaining to the terms of delivery and payments;

(c) whether the concerned authorities of Russian Government are insisting for revision of the terms of delivery schedule and payment terms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of Government's response thereto duly indicating rationale behind the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Government have entered into several agreements with the Government of Russian Federation and its corporations such as Rosoboronexport for procurement of various types of defence hardware and equipment. These agreements include procurement of aircraft carrier (ex-Admiral Gorshkov), MiG-29K aircraft and Sukhoi 30 MKI aircraft. Terms of delivery and payments are specified in the relevant contracts.

In the case of aircraft carrier (ex-Admiral Gorshkov), it is apprehended that some delay may take place in the project due to unforeseen problems. At present, the Russian authorities are seized of the issue of timely delivery of the ship. Payments relating to certain works are negotiable under the contract. Details in this regard would be available only after negotiations are complete. The project is being closely monitored.

An Inter-Governmental Agreement was signed with the Russian Government for licence manufacture of Su-30 MKI aircraft. The year-wise escalation rate which was agreed to between the two countries was valid up to December, 2007. It was agreed to review the rate for subsequent years. Negotiations for finalizing the rate of escalation are in progress.

Light weight force multiplier equipment by DRDO

2347. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DRDO is working on a project aiming to equip future soldiers with light weight force multipliers with miniaturized communication and GPS system, etc., akin to the U.S. Army's Land Warriors;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the infantryman at present carries a lot of weight and by reducing it, they can perform better in battle and counter insurgency operations; and

(c) if so, by when the DRDO sponsored project is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is formulating a project, to equip the future soldier with light weight systems. The proposed system will enhance the capabilities and effectiveness of the soldiers, and they will perform better.

(c) The objective and scope of project are being discussed with Army. The development time would be about 5 years.

NHRC's suggestions for categorizing certain offences as federal crimes

2348. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission has suggested that certain offences should be categorized as "federal crimes" to be handled by only a central agency;

(b) if so, keeping in view the challenges ahead relating to terrorism, drug trafficking, and other organized crimes, having national and international ramifications, Government agree with this suggestion;